

Evans: You want my name? James Evans born in 1928 February 8, 1928 in Johnsonville, Tennessee.

Interviewer: So what were you doing before the war?

Evans: I was going to Clarksville High School working at the Capital Theatre as a projectionist at night. And then I got my mother to sign for me to go into service into the navy.

Interviewer: When did you first hear about what was going on overseas?

Evans: Well I guess back when I was in high school I heard those things going and when we were attacked in 41. I always felt I wanted to get into it and that's the reason I went in at an early age.

Interviewer: How much did you know prior to being in the war you know about Germany or Japan?

Evans: Well I never knew a great deal about Germany but because of Pearl Harbor we knew quite a bit about Japan. That's the reason I joined the navy so we could be into the Pacific.

Interviewer: When you first signed up where did you first ship out to? For your training.

Evans: I took my training at Great Lakes Illinois and from there I was placed into I joined the US Navy. And then I was transferred to the CBs the construction battalion and I was sent to Camp Parks California to take Marine training. And we shipped out of California and went to Hawaii for a couple of days then I wound up in Guam part of the Marian Islands. That's where I spent my time in the service was at Guam.

Interviewer: What was Guam like?

Evans: It was really nothing there really. It the town and everything about the only thing I knew there was the navy base and a little church there in Iguana. But as far as it is now it wasn't anything associated with it but more or less the base for the service.

Interviewer: What was your reaction to the people around you the people you were serving with?

Evans: I had a good relation with the people I served with. We all had knew what we was there for was to help in the war. And even though we didn't get into I didn't get into any war it was at the time it was closing down. So we just more or less maintained the navy bases there in Guam.

Interviewer: So what was your specific position?

Evans: I was stationed as a guard to protect the camp and most of my duties wound up at night for that type of duty. And from there after the CBs was disbanded I moved to a navy base there to wait for my departure. And from there we came I was sent back to Memphis where I got my discharge.

Interviewer: So let's see do you have any experiences that were really profound to you during that time?

Evans: Well most of my experiences was as I say I was stationed at night and to make sure that our base was safe. And I really never got into a bad situation there it was kind of routine service at that time.

Interviewer: So when you came back what did you get into?

Evans: When I came back I really had no idea what I wanted to do. But I got a telephone call to come for an interview at Austin Peay for a two year training course that the service would half pay and the university supplied it. So after two years of the training I took at Austin Peay they hired me on as a fulltime employee.

Interviewer: I meant to ask earlier, do you have any memories of the depression or close around that time period.

Evans: Well we grew up my family was separated actually my mother had remarried and I moved to Cumberland City and took first grade there. And we moved to Clarksville and we always had plenty to eat, we were poor but we had enough to eat and everything like that. Especially after we moved to Clarksville and my step-dad had a job here.

Interviewer: What did your parents do?

Evans: My stepfather was a tree cutter he cut lumber in the lumber business. My dad was run a crane in Evansville Indiana.

Interviewer: Do you remember what you were doing when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

Evans: Not really I don't remember where I was at or what I was doing at that time.

Interviewer: Do you remember did you ever participate in any scrap drives or back home or anything like that?

Evans: No at that time I was busy working delivering papers, worked at the theater, and going to school.

Interviewer: You had a busy life.

Evans: I was helping helped support my stepfather and mother. We were we didn't have a whole lot but every little bit helped.

Interviewer: What was your interpretation of FDR?

Evans: Well we looked up to FDR he was we felt like he was one of the best presidents we ever had.

Interviewer: Why is that?

Evans: Well he had things going to get us out of the depression and get us to where people had some funds and were able to support themselves.

Interviewer: Do you remember where you were when you heard that he died?

Evans: I think I was on Guam at that time.

Interviewer: Let me pause this.

Evans: So I was on duty so I didn't make that. And so when I got off duty I went down to get dinner and the health officer had come down because the turkey was making people sick. So I missed out on turkey that Thanksgiving.

Woman in the background: He missed out on getting sick too.

Evans: So it was good I was glad I was on duty that early and that had to delay my going down to eat.

Woman in the background: When he was there. 8:00 the tape stopped.